

SUPERFUND DIVISION WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT

August 7 - 11, 2017

RA/DD EXTERNAL MEETINGS/EVENTS

DOE EPA STATES EM SITE CLEANUP DIALOGUE MEETING

On August 9th, the Division Director travelled to Santa Fe, New Mexico to participate in the DOE/EPA/States Environmental Management Cleanup Dialogue Meeting on August 10th. Several briefings to prepare for discussions have occurred with both Regional and Headquarters personnel.

EVENTS WITH PRESS INTEREST

None

CONTACT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GOOD NEWS STORIES

None

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

NORTH BIRMINGHAM – 35TH AVENUE SITE, BIRMINGHAM, AL

Removal activity continues in the Collegeville neighborhood of Birmingham this week; however, heavy rains have hindered progress. Staff and TetraTech are meeting with property owners in advance of actions proposed on their respective properties.

Additionally, EPA's 35th Avenue Enforcement Team is in continuous negotiation with Mueller/U.S. Pipe. A teleconference was held with Mueller/U.S. Pipe on August 10th. EPA has contacted Drummond Company, a PRP at the Site, but Drummond has not responded. One of Drummond Company's employees, along with a partner from Balch & Bingham, are alleged to have conspired against expanding the Site Investigation (SI) regarding the 35th Avenue Superfund Site into Tarrant, Alabama.

On August 14th, a briefing is planned with the Superfund Division Director. The briefing intends to update the Director on the status of the current and future enforcement action at the Site, and current status of the removal action and related funding.

HOT ISSUES

CTS OF ASHEVILLE, INC., ASHEVILLE, NC

CTS and AMEC have narrowed their choice of a preferred ERH vendor from the 3 contractors that submitted bids, to one. However, they have not officially awarded the contract, and will not be able to meet the August 14th due date for a 30% ERH preliminary design. Staff expects to receive a request for a 2-week extension in the next day or two. Verbal results from the ambient air samples collected in mid-July indicate conditions are stable at the Western and Eastern Springs areas.

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FAIRFAX ST. WOOD TREATERS, JACKSONVILLE, FL

Conversations with the City of Jacksonville are occurring in regards to the future use of the Fairfax Street Wood Treater (FSWT) Site. The City of Jacksonville has concerns about the liability issues that are associated with the Site, but EPA and the City of Jacksonville are both hopeful that we can find a resolution to start with redevelopment planning and ideas. EPA's Colleges and Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP) is helping to facilitate a partnership with Edward Waters College and the University of North Florida to provide assistance to the City of Jacksonville and the Fairfax community with any redevelopment plans going forward for the FSWT Site.

Once a path forward is developed, we will facilitate a meeting to discuss redevelopment at the remedial design availability session, if timeframes align.

HENRY'S KNOB, CLOVER, SC

The EPA hosted a public meeting on August 8th to provide an update on the status of the NTCRA wellhead treatment systems, groundwater monitoring program, continued measures to address re-vegetative storm water controls, dam rehabilitation, and the Sites' selection for the Regional Site Reuse Award. Staff reached out to approximately 70 individuals, and 20 participated in the meeting, which included representatives from South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Some individuals were still concerned regarding sampling efforts. After further research, it was determined that those individuals were not within the parameters of EPA's scope and were forwarded to SCDHEC for follow-up. Overall the meeting was a success. There was no participation from local officials nor the media.

ORE KNOB MINE, ASHE COUNTY, NC

A public meeting was held on August 10th to address community questions regarding the waterline extension project. Participants included representatives from the offices of Senator Richard Burr and Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, USACE, and NCDEQ. No media was present at the meeting. The meeting overall was a success. Approximately 20 individuals were present. Staff was able to clear some misunderstandings centered around the waterline line extension. Based on questions received from the community, staff committed to provide additional details regarding the characterization of remedy failure and routine operation and maintenance. Staff will be reviewing details and information and expect to have a final decision on the path forward by October 1st.

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE (USDOE), AIKEN, SC

The South Carolina Attorney General's Office filed a lawsuit to recover \$100 million it claims DOE owes the State for failing to meet its promise to remove plutonium from the Savannah River Site. The lawsuit does not impact the EPA's oversight of the Superfund activities at the Site and EPA has no authority over the issue. The lawsuit was apparently brought on by the lack of funding to build the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX), which would be used to down blend weapons grade plutonium in an effort to remove the plutonium from the State of South Carolina.

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FORMER CUSTOM CLEANERS, MEMPHIS, TN

Staff participation at the National Night Out event on August 1st, which included availability sessions in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Health. The EPA spoke with approximately 75 individuals during both events. Representatives from Congressman Steve Cohen's office and Tennessee General Assembly were present during the evening session. Attendees were provided information on the Remedial Investigation, the Enforcement program and community involvement. EPA provided responses to the following questions, (1) how and when was the dry cleaners found to be contaminated, (2) are there any threats to drinking water, (3) how is the cleanup being funded, (3) are there measures in place to hold the owner accountable (4) how long it would take before the Site is completely cleaned and (5) are there other locations in the area that are of concern.

FORMER CHATTANOOGA FOUNDRIES OU01-JEFFERSON HEIGHTS, CHATTANOOGA, TN

During the week of August 7th, Emergency and Rapid Response contractors continued backfilling operations along East 16th and Washington Streets in Jefferson Heights. Steady rain on August 7th and 8th delayed this operation, but by the morning of August 9th backfilling operations resumed. To date, lead contaminated foundry sand and waste has been removed from 13 properties along East 16th Street and 2,300 cubic yards of material has been stockpiled for disposal.

Pending any more rain delays, staff hopes to complete all backfilling during this week and top-soiling along East 16th Street during the week of August 14th. Staff continues to coordinate all removal efforts and sampling with the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservations and Hamilton County Health officials.

WHITEHOUSE OIL PITS, WHITEHOUSE, FL

The draft Notice of Deletion and Final Close Out Report have been reviewed and approved by the State of Florida. The draft Final Close Out Report with corrections requested by EPA HQ was resubmitted by staff to EPA HQ on June 13th. Staff is waiting for the deletion concurrence letter from HQ, after which the Notice of Deletion can be published in the next CFR update. The deletion is currently targeted for FY18.

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BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES CHERAW, CHERAW, SC

Excavation and backfilling has been completed on nine properties. Sod installation has been completed on five properties with the next four scheduled to be completed by August 11th. The EPA's ERRS contractor returned from a brief temporary demobilization on August 8th, and resumed work activities on August 9th. Preparation and staging work is beginning on a tenth property.

Excavation of the tenth property is anticipated to take two to three days but may be impacted by rain events. All remaining excavation, backfill and disposal work on the tenth through the fourteenth properties is anticipated to be completed by mid-September.

MISSISSIPPI PHOSPHATES CORPORATION SITE, PASCAGOULA, MS

EPA will host an NPL Listing Public Meeting for the Site in Pascagoula, MS. The meeting is scheduled for August 15th, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, at the Pascagoula Senior Center. Staff will be in attendance, along with OExA staff. Staff forwarded the NPL Listing press release to Community Stakeholders and invited them to next week's Public Meeting.

Due to heavy rainfall events, a 72-hour emergency bypass was implemented on July 25th to maintain necessary freeboard. As of August 9th, a second bypass had discharged 30 million gallons. The action was deemed necessary to prevent potential inundation of the in-situ wastewater treatment system, which would greatly impair the ability to maintain Site stability. A geophysical evaluation to determine the structural stability of both the West and East stacks is anticipated to begin mid to late August. Emergency repairs to address a sinkhole at the West Stack also began. Repairs are anticipated to be completed by early September.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST HAZARDOUS WASTE INVESTIGATION COURSE, CHILE

Chile's Superintendent of the Environment (SMA in Spanish) has requested support for investigators from SMA and other ministries on both the management of hazardous wastes and technical investigations of chemical and hydrocarbon contamination. The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (OECA) requested Spanish speaking experts with experience in RCRA inspections and contaminated site investigations. On-Scene Coordinator Benjamin Franco was selected and will work with a R2 RCRA inspector in developing and giving the course. This course will take place from August 22nd - 24th. The trip will be funded through OITA's interagency agreement with the U.S. State Department. This effort is part of EPA's international assistance program and related to the agreement we have under CAFTA.

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